

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for December 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer our abbreviated email news on a *monthly* basis.

### Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

The **JLBC Budget Update and Orientation [report](#)** for new legislators, the **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights [November 2012](#)** and the latest **Tracking Arizona's Recovery [report](#)** are all posted on the Arizona State Legislature's website.

\*\*\*\*\*

Results of the November Election are posted on the Secretary of State's website linked [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### Legislature's Interim Committees

*If you're interested in the work of the Interim Committees ahead of the next legislative session, the agendas are posted at:*  
**<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### 51<sup>st</sup> Arizona State Legislature

The session starts January 14th.

The Legislative Council's 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session Calendar Deadlines list is posted at: **<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/CalendarDeadlines.pdf>.**

The Arizona State Senate Session Timeline is posted at:

**<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/51leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>.**

The Arizona State Senate website has the 2013 Senators and Assistant List posted at: **<http://www.azsenate.gov/SenateList.asp>.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Share your thoughts!** If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

· **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only)

· Or **contacting your legislator from your area**; locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

· **District maps** are posted [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

The wait continues to see if an agreement will be reached on the federal budget deficit.

A list of potential program cuts resulting from no agreement by January 2nd, provided by the National Council on Aging, can be found at:

<http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/public-policy--action/Sequester-OAA-Tables.pdf>

## **Legislation**

### **S.3651**

#### **Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act**

Introduced on 12/4/2012 by Senator Mark Begich (AK)

A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, to provide for cash relief for years for which annual COLAs do not take effect under certain cash benefit programs, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection.

12/4/2012, referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **H.R.6328**

#### **Clothe a Homeless Hero Act**

Introduced on 8/2/2012 by Representative Kathleen C. Hochul (NY-26)

Directs the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration [TSA]) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations or other local charitable organizations for distribution to homeless or needy veterans and their families. Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to enter into agreements with airport authorities for disposing of such clothing.

On 12/11/2012, passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent;  
12/12/2012 Message on Senate action sent to the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

Last Thursday, AHCCCS Director, Tom Betlach participated in hearings at the Senate Committee on Finance. A link to Director Betlach's testimony, posted on the U.S. Senate's website, is provided [here](#). All statements, presented at the *Improving Care for Dually-Eligible Beneficiaries: A Progress Update*, are posted at:

<http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=44840579-5056-a032-52c9-034b7663dc1e>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE:** If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

### **Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:  
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) for the **Senate**.

**You can contact the White House at:**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **OTHER NEWS**

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

[News Release](#) regarding doctors adopting electronic health records (EHR)

\*\*\*\*\*

From **Kaiser Health News**

12/12/2012 [discussions](#) on controlling Medicare costs...

\*\*\*\*\*

**The latest information on the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* can be found [here](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **Administration for Community Living**

Taken from **ACL News & Info, Monday, December 10, 2012**

### ***2013 Older Americans Month Theme Announced***

Every year since 1963, May has been a month to appreciate and celebrate the vitality and aspirations of older adults and their contributions to our communities. The theme for Older Americans Month 2013, *Unleash the Power of Age*, has never been more fitting. Older Americans are productive, active and influential members of society, sharing essential talents, wisdom and life experience with their families, friends and neighbors.

This year, think about what your organization can do to help *Unleash the Power of Age*. Giving our elders opportunities to volunteer their time to support those who are less fortunate, to teach others the skills they've honed over the years or to become involved in civic matters are just a few ways you can *Unleash the Power of Age*. Help our older Americans stay positive, active, and looking forward.

Information to help your organization celebrate Older Americans Month will be coming soon!

### **History of Older Americans Month**

Year of Elder Abuse Prevention--New Resources Posted

As part of the Year of Elder Abuse Prevention (YEAP), announced in September, the Administration on Aging (AoA) is pleased to provide information, tools, and resources to support federal, state and local partners in their efforts to raise public awareness about elder abuse and shed light on the importance of preventing, identifying, and responding to this serious, often hidden problem. The YEAP toolkit includes an outreach guide, event planning materials, fact sheets, a Frequently Asked Questions booklet, web banner designs, YEAP poster, as well as customizable YEAP templates for newsletters, Power Points, and event flyers. In addition, the webpage contains information on social media outreach, including simple social media posts to help in promoting elder justice information and activities across popular social media platforms Facebook and Twitter. [YEAP webpage](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities**  
**NASUAD: [Strengthening the Aging Network](#)**

\*\*\*\*\*

From [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Information on the Flu; *Who's at Risk? Seniors*

More information is linked [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

From **Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

*Fact of the Week: In 2050, Almost One Quarter of the Labor Force Will Be 55+*

The link is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **WHAT: Rural Transportation Summit**

**WHEN: January 16 – 18, 2013**, Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Chandler, AZ

**For more information, go to:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/RTSSaveTheDate.pdf>

Also: **National Center on Senior Transportation** link to the Senior Transportation Exchange Online Community is provided here:

[http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2\\_Senior\\_Transportation\\_Exchange](http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_Senior_Transportation_Exchange) and an overview of a successful rural transportation program is linked at [http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2\\_success\\_story\\_Kindness](http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_success_story_Kindness).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Resources for Mature Workers**

Mature job seekers can find community and employment resources as well as other helpful information in the [Job Seeker Toolkit](#) located on the **Arizona Mature Workers website**.

The website also includes resources for professionals and employers at these links: [Professional Toolkit](#) and [Employer Tool Kit](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**To view the latest issue of the *Caregiver Connection*** (northern Arizona), go to: <http://www.caregiverconnection.us/>

\*\*\*\*\*

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:  
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy 2013!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**